Vol. II. Numb. 18.

The EXAMINER.

From Thursday *March* 27, to Thursday *April* 3. 1712.

I Was lately reading Dr. *South*'s excellent Writings; in one of his Sermons, preach'd at *Weſtminſter-Abby*, *April* 30*th*, 1676. Vol. I. pag. 372. he treats the *Politicians* of this World in ſo expreſſive a manner, that I do not queſtion but the niceſt Reader will be very well entertained with the recital; for which reaſon I have choſe to ſet ſome part of that Diſcourſe at length.

'The Rule or Principle upon which this Po-'licy or Wiſdom of the World proceeds, is, '*That a Man ought to make himſelf, and not the* '*Publick, the chief if not the ſole end, of all his* '*Actions:* He is to be his own Centre and Cir-'cumference too: That is to draw all things 'to himſelf, and to extend nothing *beyond* him-'ſelf: He is to make the Greater World ſerve 'the Leſs; and not only not to love his Neigh-'bour as himſelf, but indeed to account none 'for his Neighbour, but himſelf.

'And therefore to die or ſuffer for his Coun-'try, is not only exploded by him as a great 'Paradox in Politicks, and fitter for Poets to 'ſing of, than for wiſe Men to practiſe: But 'alſo to make himſelf but one Penny the poor-'er, or to forbear one baſe Gain to ſerve his 'Prince, to ſecure a whole Nation, or to credit 'a Church, is judged by him a great want of 'Experience, and a piece of Romantick Melan-'choly, unbecoming a Politician; who is ſtill 'to look upon himſelf as his Prince, his Coun-'try, his Church, nay, and his God too.

'The general Intereſt of the Nation is no-'thing to him, but only that Portion of it, 'that he either does or would poſſeſs: 'Tis not 'the Rain that waters the whole Earth, but that 'which falls into his own Ciſtern, that muſt 'relieve him: Not the *Common* but the *Enclo-'ſure* that muſt make him Rich.

'Let the Publick ſink or ſwim, ſo long as he 'can hold his Head above Water: Let the 'Ship be caſt away, if he may but have the Be-'nefit of the Wreck: Let the Government be 'ruined by his AVARICE, if by the ſame 'AVARICE he can ſcrape together ſo much 'as to make his Peace under another. Let Fo-'reigners invade and ſpoil the Land, ſo long as 'he has a good Eſtate *in Bank* elſewhere. Per-'adventure, for all this, Men may curſe him as 'a *covetous Wretch*, a *Traytor*, and a *Villain:* But 'ſuch Words are to be look'd upon only as the 'ſplendid Declaimings of *Novices*, and *Men* of '*Heat*, who, while they rail at his Perſon, per-'haps, envy his Fortune: Or, poſſibly of Lo-'ſers and Male-contents, whoſe Portion and 'Inheritance, is a Freedom to ſpeak. But a 'Politician muſt be above Words: *Wealth*, 'he knows, anſwers all; and if it brings a 'Storm upon him, will provide him alſo a Coat 'to Weather it out.

Sure this Divine Preacher had the Gift of Prophecy: We have ſeen fulfilled, in our Days, all or more than is here ſpoken of: We have beheld a *Politician* of this World, ſo very much his own *Centre* and *Circumference*, as to be his own *Phyſician*, *Surgeon*, *Apothecary*, *Commiſſary*, *Aid-du-Camp*, nay, and his own *Chaplain:* When he was on this ſide the Water he conſtantly offi-ciated, to himſelf, in all theſe ſeveral Capacities, and took care to receive, as in good reaſon he ought, the *Salary* ariſing from thoſe ſeveral Em-ployments, well knowing *the Labourer is worthy of his Hire*. Indeed, when he went Abroad, theſe Preferments were *Nominally* given to ſome of the Domeſticks, tho' the Pay was continued as before; *Tom*, or *Dick*, or *Robin*, were *Har-binger*, *Surgeon*, *Apothecary:* To thoſe who cared not to reflect ſeriouſly, it was diverting enough to ſee them play the Farce among themſelves; *Will* was appointed *Phyſician* for the *Soul*, *Ned* for the *Body:* Theſe Scoundrels perſonated Gen-tlemen of Liberal Education, were called Do-ctors, and held their Rank and Seniority accord-ingly. But of all thoſe Operators, methinks, whoever he be, I have moſt Reverence for the *Projector of Gain*; if that Employment be not alſo *Titular*, and, as the reſt, in reality executed by the Maſter himſelf. I have a profound Vene-ration for the Invention of getting by *Bread* and *Bread-Waggons*, together with the *Two and a half per Cent*. *PEROUISITE:* He muſt be a Perſon of great Dexterity, who adjuſted the Buſineſs relating to *Preſents*. I have been told, *Specie* was always the moſt acceptable; but, in defect of that, Jewels and fine Pieces of Painting, would paſs Muſter. It muſt needs be one of thoſe *Ma-nagers*, that alarm'd a young beautiful Princeſs in *Germany*; being asked, why ſhe wept? ſhe anſwered, Becauſe of the approach of a *certain Perſon*; ſhe feared, in a ſhort time, there would not be a Jewel, nor any thing valuable left among them.

The Affairs, relating to a *Fellow-feeling* among the Allies, certainly required the niceſt Hand: As to *Forage* and *Contributions*, I ſuppoſe that Bu-ſineſs was become Matter of courſe: But what

Perſon

Perſon was ſo ingenious to adviſe getting a Privy-Seal (to the nominal Value of Seven thouſand Pound, tho' ſaid to be intrinſically worth a great deal more) for the *Table-Plate* with which K——g *W——m* uſed to be ſerved in the Field, thought to be unalienable, like the Jewels of the Crown, ſo to paſs, by an eaſie Tranſition, from General to General, as an Article of the Grandeur of the *Britiſh* Nation? I believe it is to this very *Projector* the *Dutch* owe that Advice, by which they are reduced to ſuch hard Circumſtances, and we ſo very much improved in ours. By a continued Series of Conqueſts, and good Counſel, the War hath been prolonged, 'till the immortal Actions of One Man hath brought to paſs that Miracle, which the *Tempter* required of *CHRIST*, making *Bread of Stones*. To the ſame Sourſe may be aſcribed, that we neither enjoy the Comfort of Day-light, nor Candle-light, without a Tax. By ſo many glorious Battles and memorable Sieges, we are indebted above *Fifty Millions*, beſides all that hath been paid, of which *Thirty five* are not, even by theſe Conqueſts, accounted for, as yet. Theſe are ſome few of thoſe Benefits which the Writers of a Party extol ſo high, by which they would draw Commiſeration, ſet forth Hardſhips, and inflame the Peoples Minds to an abhorance of Peace; tho', to carry on the War, there remains not any individual *Produce*, that hath not been doubly Taxed; they would entirely diſable us from ever paying the Nation's Debts, or being juſt to one another. Now that the Government are ſtriving, to extricate us, as it were for Life, inceſſantly labouring to give us Breath, they would ſtifle us all at once, without allowing any intermiſſion; as if nothing but publick Ruin could attone for the Injury they pretend hath been done to them, by the removal of their *Party*. That great Divine, whom I lately quoted, ſaith, in the ſame Sermon, *It is no Man's Duty to be Safe or to be Rich; but, it is the Duty of every One to make good his Truſt: And it is a Calamity to a whole Nation, that any Man ſhould have a Place, or an Employment, more large, and publick, than his Spirit.*

POSTSCRIPT.

Obſerving, that moſt Pamphlets, News-Papers, Diverting Papers and Dedications, are ſtill ſtuffed with the unwearied, repeated Praiſes, of one *Illuſtrious Perſon*, I could not be ſo ſtupid to change this Subject for a leſs faſhionable: I ſhall therefore take leave to join in *Panegyricks*, ſo long as I ſee my Fellow-Writers ſtrenuouſly purſuing them; when they are pleaſed to give the Town a new Theme, I may readily acknowledge my ſelf grown weary of mine, and be glad to follow good Example.

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